

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1724

Introduced by Assembly Member Pavley

March 19, 2001

An act to amend Section 399.6 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to public utilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1724, as introduced, Pavley. Public utilities: Reliable Electric Service Investments Act.

Under the Reliable Electric Service Investments Act, the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (Energy Commission) is required to create an investment plan, in accordance with specified objectives, to govern the allocation of funds in order to be a fully competitive and self-sustaining California renewable energy supply. Existing law requires the Energy Commission, in preparing these investment plans, to recommend specified allocations including customer credits for renewable energy not under contract with a utility. Existing law specifies that commencing on January 1, 2002, public entities are not eligible to receive customer credits for renewables.

This bill would delete the provision that prohibits, commencing January 1, 2002, public entities from receiving customer credits for renewables.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 399.6 of the Public Utilities Code is amended to read:

399.6. (a) In order to optimize public investment and ensure that the most cost-effective and efficient investments in renewable resources are vigorously pursued, the Energy Commission shall create an investment plan as set forth in paragraphs (1) to (3), inclusive, to govern the allocation of funds provided pursuant to this article. The Energy Commission's long-term goal shall be a fully competitive and self-sustaining California renewable energy supply. The investment plan shall be in accordance with all of the following:

(1) The investment plan's objective shall be to increase, in the near term, the quantity of California's electricity generated by in-state renewable energy resources, while protecting system reliability, fostering resource diversity, and obtaining the greatest environmental benefits for California residents.

(2) An additional objective of the plan shall be to identify and support emerging renewable energy technologies that have the greatest near-term commercial promise and that merit targeted assistance.

(3) The investment plan shall contain specific numerical targets, reflecting the projected impact of the plan, for both of the following:

(A) Increased quantity of California electrical generation produced from emerging technologies and from overall renewable resources.

(B) Increased supply of renewable generation available from facilities other than those selling to investor-owned utilities under contracts entered into prior to 1996 under the federal Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-617).

(b) The Energy Commission shall, on an annual basis, evaluate progress on meeting the targets set forth in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (a), or any substitute provisions adopted by the Legislature upon review of the investment plan, and assess the impact of the investment plan on reducing the cost to Californians of renewable energy generation.

(c) In preparing these investment plans, the Energy Commission shall recommend allocations among all of the following:

(1) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), production incentives for new renewable energy, including repowered or refurbished renewable energy.

(B) Allocations may not be made for renewable energy that is generated by a project that remains under a power purchase contract with an electrical corporation originally entered into prior to September 24, 1996, whether amended or restated thereafter.

(C) Notwithstanding subparagraph (B), production incentives for incremental new, repowered, or refurbished renewable energy from existing projects under a power purchase contract with an electrical corporation originally entered into prior to September 24, 1996, whether amended or restated thereafter, may be allowed in any month, if all of the following occur:

(i) The project's power purchase contract provides that all energy delivered and sold under the contract is paid at a price that does not exceed commission approved short-run avoided cost of energy.

(ii) Either of the following:

(I) The power purchase contract is amended to provide that the kilowatthours used to determine the capacity payment in any time-of-delivery period in any month under the contract shall be equal to the actual kilowatthour production, but no greater than the five-year average of the kilowatthours delivered for the corresponding time-of-delivery period and month, in the years 1994 to 1998, inclusive.

(II) If a project's installed capacity as of December 31, 1998, is less than 75 percent of the nameplate capacity as stated in the power purchase contract, the power purchase contract is amended to provide that the kilowatthours used to determine the capacity payment in any time-of-delivery period in any month under the contract shall be equal to the actual kilowatthour production, but no greater than the product of the five-year average of the kilowatthours delivered for the corresponding time-of-delivery period and month, in the years 1994 to 1998, inclusive, and the ratio of installed capacity as of December 31 of the previous year, but not to exceed contract nameplate capacity, to the installed capacity as of December 31, 1998.

(iii) The production incentive is payable only with respect to the kilowatthours delivered in a particular month that exceeds the corresponding five-year average calculated pursuant to clause (ii).

(2) Rebates, buydowns, or equivalent incentives for emerging renewable technologies.

(3) Customer credits for renewables not under contract with a utility.

(4) Customer education.

(5) Incentives for reducing fuel costs that are confirmed to the satisfaction of the Energy Commission at solid fuel biomass energy facilities in order to provide demonstrable environmental and public benefits, including but not limited to, air quality.

(6) Solar thermal generating resources that enhance the environmental value or reliability of the electricity system and that require financial assistance to remain economically viable, as determined by the Energy Commission. The Energy Commission may require financial disclosure from applicants for purposes of this paragraph.

(7) Specified fuel cell technologies, if the Energy Commission makes all of the following findings:

(A) The specified technologies have similar or better air pollutant characteristics than renewable technologies in the investment plan.

(B) The specified technologies require financial assistance to become commercially viable by reference to wholesale generation prices.

(C) The specified technologies could contribute significantly to the infrastructure development or other innovation required to meet the long-term objective of a self-sustaining, competitive supply of renewable energy.

(8) Existing wind-generating resources, if the Energy Commission finds that the existing wind-generating resources are a cost-effective source of reliability and environmental benefits compared with other eligible sources, and that the existing wind-generating resources require financial assistance to remain economically viable, as determined by the Energy Commission. The Energy Commission may require financial disclosure from applicants for the purposes of this paragraph.

~~(d) Commencing on January 1, 2002, public entities are not eligible to receive customer credits for renewables.~~

1 ~~(e)~~Notwithstanding any other provision of law, moneys
2 collected for renewable energy pursuant to this article shall be
3 transferred to the Renewable Resource Trust Fund of the Energy
4 Commission, to be held until further action by the Legislature. The
5 Energy Commission shall prepare and submit to the Legislature,
6 on or before March 31, 2001, an initial investment plan for these
7 moneys, addressing the application of moneys collected between
8 January 1, 2002, and January 1, 2007. The initial investment plan
9 shall also include an evaluation of and report to the Legislature
10 regarding the appropriateness and structure of a mandatory state
11 purchase of renewable energy. On or before March 31, 2006, the
12 Energy Commission shall prepare an investment plan proposing
13 the application of moneys collected between January 1, 2007, and
14 January 1, 2012. No moneys may be expended in the years covered
15 by these plans without further legislative action.

